

cc: D. Jordan Esq.

June 6, 1974

Mr. Darrell F. Brown
Senior Assistant Postmaster General
Employee Labor Relations
U. S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20260

Dear Mr. Brown:

The National Post Office Mail Handlers, Watchmen, Messengers and Group Leaders Division of the Laborers' International Union of North America, AFL-CIO (Mail Handlers) hereby exercises its right under the Memorandum of Understanding, December 14, 1973, establishing trilateral grievance procedures between the United States Postal Service, the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and the Mail Handlers to demand arbitration of adverse Step 4 work and jurisdictional assignments.

Three such adverse assignments were made by Mr. James Sullivan in separate letters dated May 31, 1974, in the following cases:

- 1) AW-NAT-5753 (Oakland, California)
- 2) A-NAT-5750 (Seattle, Washington)
- 3) A-NAT-2964 (San Francisco, California).

As these cases involve the interpretation of a single contract provision as it applies to similar postal operations, the Mail Handlers suggest that they be decided in a single arbitration proceeding. The importance of the issues presented make it imperative that this arbitration be scheduled in an expedited manner.

.../...

JUN 10 1974

Mr. Darrell F. Brown
June 6, 1974
Page Two

The preceding arbitration demand in no way constitutes a waiver of the Mail Handler position that two of these cases are not appropriate for grievance settlement pursuant to either the Memorandum of Understanding or Article XV of the National Agreement. In the Seattle case, a fourth step decision adverse to the APWU was rendered by D. P. Dockery on September 27, 1973 in A-W-3488. In the Oakland case, the fourth step decision rendered by James Sullivan on March 8, 1974, in A-NAT-5753 rejected the grievance filed by the APWU for the outside piece multi-slide parcel sorter key man assignment. Failure of the APWU to appeal these decisions to arbitration within the permissible contractual time frame bars the APWU from seeking the identical positions in a second grievance.

Therefore, the Mail Handlers will press before the arbitration the contractual error of the Postal Service in granting the APWU request to reopen consideration of these positions at the May 7, 1974 step four meeting.

As to all three cases, the Mail Handlers anticipate and demand that, pending arbitration, the affected positions continue to be filled by mail handlers. In San Francisco and Seattle, reassignment prior to arbitration would dislocate employees presently holding those positions. In Oakland, mail handlers have but recently settled into the contested jobs following a lengthy implementation period of a prior grievance settlement. Any contrary action would greatly exacerbate the confusion necessarily attending the Postal Service's repeated reversal of position in these cases.

Sincerely,

Lonnie L. Johnson
National Director

/kal

cc: Mr. Alvin H. Gandal